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McALPIN CONFRONTS LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION

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Mutual funds investor Clovis McAlpin stated before the legislative commission investigating the funds, that he had no nationality.

Representative Dr Longino Soto Pacheco asked why Mr McAlpin had told the commission that he was North American while in a sworn statement in the United States he had claimed to be Costa Rican. "I meant to say I was a resident of Costa Rica. I regret the error and ask you to excuse it."

He continued, "I don't think I understood the question." Soto Pacheco then inquired: "Can you tell us now what your nationality is?" "I have no nationality. I renounced my American citizenship in London," was McAlpin's answer. He admitted he was traveling on a Costa Rican diplomatic passport, on assignment as attache to the Costa Rican embassy in Brussels. "If President Figueres would see fit to extend my passport from Trejos' administration, I believe that I would have reciprocated this honor more than adequately by my many efforts in Europe on behalf of Costa Rica."

Passport Not Conditioned on San Cristobal Investment

Later in his statement, and in answer to representative Guillermo Jimenez Ramirez' inquiry, Mr McAlpin stated "that the passport was never conditioned upon investment in capital growth in San Cristobal. It was my brother Gordon who made the decision during a trip of mine to Africa, as he declared in the hearings in Costa Rica."

Representative Jimenez Ramirez indicated "that in his brother Gordon McAlpin's statement before the delegates of the investigating commission in Mexico, he had stated that the passport was conditioned upon such an investment."

"Two million dollars is a lot of money for a passport," answered Clovis McAlpin. "It's not necessary to make such a heavy investment to obtain one in another country. At the time it was issued to me everyone was asking

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me to come to Costa Rica to invest. 'Stay here,' they said, 'it's good for the country.' Now it seems that things have changed."

\$400,000 Investment by Costa Ricans in Capital Growth

When representative Edgar Arroyo Cordero asked how much stock had been bought by Costa Ricans in the fund managed by Mr McAlpin, he said he could not give an exact figure, "but it was definitely under half a million dollars throughout Central America -- 75 percent or \$400,000 coming from Costa Rica." He continued, "some lost their money when the stock went down in the stockmarket, but the country has gained because since the funds were established in Costa Rica, approximately 11 million dollars have been invested here."

Opening European Markets for Costa Rican Meat

When delegate Jimenez Ramirez asked him if he thought it was right to use a Costa Rican passport, he replied: "Oh yes! Last month, together with the Ambassador in Brussels, we met with health officials from Holland and Finland and other countries to arrange for them to inspect the local slaughter houses so that they can open up European markets for Costa Rican meat. Everything is moving well, and both President Figueres and Minister Batalla are supporting this plan. It is risky to depend solely on the United States as a market for the meat."

Later McAlpin indicated that he did not remember if the passport issued during Trejos' administration had been arranged by Mr Jose Figueres. Previously, in answer to representative Arroyo Cordero's inquiry, he had stated that his credentials had been extended by attorney Fernando Lara Bustamante and Diego Trejos, minister and minister of public security, respectively, at that time.

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